

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments above and the comments which follow.

As correctly noted in the Office Action Summary, claims 1-37 were pending. By the present response, claims 17, 18, 26-34 and 36 have been canceled, and claims 24 and 37 has been amended. Thus, upon entry of the present response, claims 1-16, 19-25 and 35 and 37 remain pending and await further consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found at least in the following locations of the original disclosure: the original claims.

Entry of the foregoing is appropriate pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116 for at least the following reasons: (1) the amendments cancel non-elected claims; and (2) the amendment to claim 37 is believed to be consistent with the suggestions of the Examiner, and clearly overcomes the grounds for the objection.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 37 stands objected to on the grounds set forth in paragraph 3 of the Official Action. By the present response, claim 37 has been amended in the manner, while not narrowing the scope thereof, is believed to fully address the above-noted grounds for objection. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

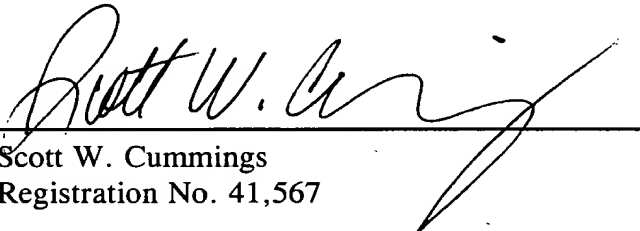
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1-16, 19-25 and 35-37 contain allowable subject matter, as noted in paragraph 4 of the Official Action.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that any issues remain, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that any such issues may be adequately addressed and prosecution of the instant application expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Scott W. Cummings
Registration No. 41,567

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: October 21, 2003